

## **GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

April 14, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

In just the past few days, I've traveled to Cadillac to meet with local manufacturers, and I also participated in a manufacturing roundtable of elected officials and local businesses in Macomb County. My message to the employers and the workers I met with was this: There's no question that in Michigan, manufacturing matters.

More than 670,000 people work in Michigan's manufacturing sector today – people who work hard to give their children good homes and good lives; people who only expect a fair day's pay for a fair day's work; hard-working people who've made Michigan the auto capital of the world.

That's why my administration has taken action to help our manufacturers, on behalf of those thousands of people and thousands of families, to keep the jobs that we have, at a time when Michigan is ground zero for the global shift in manufacturing jobs.

The U.S. manufacturing industry has lost more than 2.8 million jobs since 2001, including 200,000 here in Michigan. As Governor, I understand the challenges that our manufacturers face. I understand the challenges that our workers face. And I'm fighting everyday to keep our jobs from going overseas.

In December, I signed legislation giving manufacturers a \$600 million tax cut, with incentives to create and consolidate jobs in Michigan, instead of outsourcing them to other countries.

And I've also been working closely with Michigan's Congressional delegation to press the White House to take action against unfair trade, and to help our manufacturers succeed in the global marketplace.

Michigan's manufacturers need a partner in the White House. But instead, for five years, as more and more jobs have gone overseas, the Bush administration's trade policies have not changed.

I've been proud to work with our US Senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, as well as Michigan's bi-partisan delegation in the US House of Representatives, to call on the Bush administration to address the issues that are critical to our manufacturers.

For starters, we need Washington to enforce the trade laws that are already on the books. We need an administration that will put the pressure on countries like China to end currency manipulation, which drives up the cost of American-manufactured goods. And we need to protect our American products from counterfeiting by other countries.

As Governor, I see every day what current trade policies are doing to our workers and our employers. And that's why, every day, I am standing up for our manufacturers – because manufacturing and manufacturing workers matter to Michigan, they matter to me, and I know they matter to you too.

Thank you for listening.